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Date: 3/13/03 12:53PM
Subject: Comments on Committee Workshop of March 12, 2003 on PIER Research on FiveYear Transmission R&D Plan.

I attended the Committee Workshop on "Development of Five-Year Transmission R&D Olan on March 12,2003. I have the following comments to make.

I think there are a lots of promising proposals and scientific facts the Commission is considering and there is likely good scientific discoveries in the process.

However, I suggest the Commission should note the following:

1. In california, the Public is very worried on any electric transmission related activities or development in their neighborhood, because they perceive that the transmission lines can adversely impact their property value, adversely impact their health and safety. They, therefore, object vigorously on any transmission related activity in their local area.

[Public reactions on a proposed transmission line near Lake Elsinor, via Cleveland National Forest, can be seen on FERC's website (www.FERC.gov) and by going to their RIMS site & to FERRIS site under project p-11858. There the California Energy Commission will see that every homeowner along the proposed tranmission line objected to the proposal].

If there is any problem in accessing the project site, I will be glad to help.

The CEC should consider whether any new technology will be acceptable to the people of the state or not. Or else the promising technology may not be implemented.

2. As a result of the devastating Forest fires in the last two summers, land management agencies like the Forest Service, BLM, Park Service, Sate Forestry Agency and Private Forested landowners) are likely be very skeptical in accepting a new technology on their land if that likely to increase the wildland fire risks. The Commission should engage the Fire experts from those agencies in the collaborative development & evaluation of the proposed transmission technologies. Otherwise any new technology can face problems, if the transmission lines are to be sited on lands administered under their respective jurisdiction.

3. The CEC should consult FERC or other Agencies' record what types of liability have been attributed to the Transmission related infrastructures in the past. All generating utilities/transmission utilities under FERC's jurisdiction are required to report to FERC under 18 CFR part 12 on any

losses sustained as a result of construction/operation/decommission of the projects. FERC's District Office in San Francisco should be contacted to access the public record on these.

Forest Service's Office of the General Counsel, Department of Interior's Office of the Solicitor can tell what kinds of claims they have pressed on transmission related accidents in the past. State Attorney General can also give record of their claims on transmission related losses. The CEC can get valuable insights what to pursue and what to avoid in future R&D on transmission technology, in the process.

4. CEC should also contact Forest Service Biologists, Department of the Interior's biologists, State Fish & Game biologists, other agency biologists in their collaborative process on technology development and evaluation on the birds and other wildlife's mortality in transmission related incidences. Those people's insights on the promise & problems on the proposed transmission technology should help the Commission to determine what types of projects to be pursued and what types of projects to be avoided at the outset, saving the money and time.

Thanks

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